

Clarity & Alignment Exercise

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This exercise helps you craft three foundational elements of your research proposal: the problem you wish to study, the purpose of your research, and the research question being investigated.

Define each in a single sentence. Limiting yourself to one sentence forces you to say clearly what you are proposing — and it shows whether the three actually align, which is where a great many proposals come apart.

Problem Statement

Purpose of the Research

Research Question

You may have more than one research question. That is fine. It is also fine to start with a broader overarching question and narrow it to sub-questions — but be specific, or alignment slips.

Make sure your wording reflects your approach — qualitative or quantitative. A question worded quantitatively commits you to a quantitative study.

These three are the start of alignment, not the whole of it.

Alignment means every part of your study pulls in the same direction — **problem statement, purpose, research questions, theoretical framework, methodology, instruments, analysis, and findings, connected in an unbroken chain. This exercise settles the first three links. The chain is longer, and School Review checks all of it.**

And if you cannot get one of these into a single sentence, that is the finding. It usually means the element is not settled in your own mind yet, and no amount of writing around it will settle it. **More at morethananeditor.com/clarity.**